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many times when a young girl student, and in mature life, endeavoring to persuade myself that I could if I would, but the odor of both lilac and milkweed seems to place a band about my head, which, as regards the lilac, is bearable to a certain limit of politeness, if I am a guest in a house; but the effect of the milkweed is so intensified that I think I should lose consciousness if I persisted long in the inhalation. JULIA S. HOAG.

*Albany, N. Y.*

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#### Revision of N. Am. species of Fissidens.

On comparing the measurements of leaf-cells and spores in the species treated in my paper (this journal xii, 1887, p. 1) with those recently given by Limpricht,<sup>1</sup> I found mine so uniformly in excess that I was lead to re-examine the matter. As this remeasurement led to the same result as at first, I turned to a verification of the value assigned to the divisions of the eye-piece micrometer used. This value I found had been erroneously determined, being twenty-five per cent. greater than it should be. Those who have occasion to use these measurements are, therefore, requested to deduct one-fourth from them, *e. g.*,  $20\mu$  should read  $15\mu$ ;  $24\mu$  should be  $18\mu$ , and so on. C. R. BARNES.

*Madison, Wis., March 1, 1888.*

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#### An exchange herbarium.

An ideal botanical exchange is one through which one can obtain at any time any plant desired. At the New York meeting of the A. A. A. S. the Botanical Club appointed a committee, consisting of Dr. Geo. Vasey, Dr. N. L. Britton, Thomas Morong, Dr. S. Watson and Dr. B. D. Halsted, to consider the question of a botanical exchange for this country, and to organize one if thought desirable and practicable. Suggestions from each member of the committee have been secured, as well as from other botanists, and information has been obtained in regard to the Botanical Exchange Club of the British Islands. Direct information regarding a very successful German botanical exchange has for some reason failed to reach the committee, but some account of its methods of work has been learned from persons in this country who have obtained plants through it. An account of the workings of the British Exchange, together with suggestions for the management of one in this country, is given in the February numbers of the *Torrey Bulletin* and BOTANICAL GAZETTE.

There is a desire on the part of many that the exchange be located at Washington. The botanist of the Department of Agriculture has, therefore, consented to manage the exchange if so desired, and the Commissioner of Agriculture has granted space in the department building for the purposes of the exchange, and authorized the use of the duplicates belonging to the department herbarium. If the proposed exchange is organized on this basis, it will be practically an extension of the system of distribution heretofore carried on by the Department of Agriculture, and its management under special rules. In this case there would be no fees, and the interchange of specimens would be made through the mails free of postage. Persons desiring specimens could therefore be expected to contribute a liberal number in exchange for those desired, and thus quickly establish a stock from which nearly everything called for could

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<sup>1</sup> Die Laubmoose (Rabenh. Krypt.-Flora), p. 427 et seq.

be furnished. The stock of duplicates belonging to the Department of Agriculture has during the past winter been labeled and arranged in botanical order, and now represents nearly 1,000 genera, being especially full in grasses and plants of the southwest.

Many names are being received of persons desiring to join an exchange. To these and others the rules will be sent when the exchange is organized. Persons interested are requested to correspond with the chairman of the committee, Dr. George Vasey, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

A. A. CROZIER.

Washington, D. C.

### Alexipharmics.

When reading the article on alexipharmics, or snake-bite antidotes, in the recent number of the *Annals of Botany*, I felt a little surprise at the small number of plants mentioned. I had a vague notion that the list of American species of reputed potency might be increased. This led me to make out, as near as I could recall them, a list of such plants as had some reference to snakes in their names. I am surprised to find in my private library (I have not consulted the large college collection) how little reference there is to the origin of the names. In many cases I am in doubt whether the title has reference to medicinal qualities or external resemblances. Even Darlington and Wood, usually rather expansive on such matters, are singularly silent. Down south, where, it is said, the natives hunt all day for a snake in order to take the remedial tincture there may be more knowledge on the subject. Here is the list for what it is worth:

*Actæa spicata*, both varieties, snake-root; *Eryngium yuccæfolium*, rattlesnake master; *Sanicula Canadensis*, black snakeroot; *Eupatorium ageratoides*, white snakeroot; *Liatris*, various species, button snakeroot; *Hieracium venosum*, rattlesnake-weed; *Asarum Canadense*, Canada snake-root; *Aristolochia serpentaria*, Virginia snakeroot; *Goodyera*, two species, rattlesnake-plantain; *Glyceria Canadensis*, rattlesnake-grass; *Botrychium Virginicum*, rattlesnake-fern.

In Lindley's *Medical Botany* (1838) the name "rattlesnake-master" is applied to *Liatris squarrosa*, with the note that it is so called in the southern part of America, and "in case of being bitten by this animal (the rattlesnake) they bruise the roots and apply them to the wound, while at the same time the patient drinks a decoction of it in milk." He speaks of three species of *Mikania* so employed, but ours is not among them. Has it value?

In regard to *Aristolochia serpentaria*, Flückiger and Hanbury say, "Its ancient reputation for the cure of snake-bites is now disregarded."

I think it would be interesting to more than myself if some competent person would give us an authentic list of all reputed alexipharmics, and also what is known of the origin of such ophidian names as the above.

Brown University, Providence, R. I.

W. WHITMAN BAILEY.

### Strawberry poisoning.

In response to my note upon this subject in the January GAZETTE, I have received a communication from Dr. C. F. Millspaugh, of Waverly, N. Y., calling my attention to a number of cases similar to those recorded by myself, which had already been observed and published. The earliest